

MINUTES

OF THE

Thirty-Second Annual Meeting

OF THE

NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE,

HELD AT

BETHLEHEM, ALAMANCE COUNTY, N. C.

October 22d, 23d, and 24th, 1857.

TO WHICH ARE APPENDED THE MINUTES OF THE HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

E. F. WATSON, STANDING SECRETARY.

PRINTED FOR W. B. WELLONS.

1857.

MINUTES

OF THE

Thirty-Second Annual Meeting

OF THE

NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE,

HELD AT

BETHLEHEM, ALAMANCE COUNTY, N. C.

October 22d, 23d, and 24th, 1857.

TO WHICH ARE APPENDED THE MINUTES OF THE HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

E. F. WATSON, STANDING SECRETARY.

PRINTED FOR W. B. WELLONS.

1857.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

MINUTES.

BETHLEHEM, THURSDAY, OCT. 22, 1857.

"The NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE" met, pursuant to the adjournment of Conference last year, with the church at Bethlehem, Alamance County, N. C., in its Thirty-Second Annual Session.

The body was called to order by Elder Alfred Iseley, President of last Session.

Ministers Present—B. N. Hopkins, G. G. Walker, J. I. Hobby, Joseph Albright, R. G. Tinnen, W. N. Bragg, Alfred Iseley, James W. Wellons, Thomas Truitt, Alfred Apple, Solomon Apple, S. G. Evans, Josiah McCulley, and Thomas J. Fowler.

Licentiates—Abner Apple, L. C. Madison, A. G. Anderson, D. T. Deanes, and Solomon Fuller.

Ministers Absent—Thos. G. Craven, H. B. Hayes, A. Franks, L. Lambeth, W. S. Jordan, M. Staley, J. R. Holt, William Rollins, J. M. Minnis, Anderson Craven, L. Utley, J. S. Swift, T. E. Jeter, A. S. Nelson, and William M. Craven. *Licentiates*—J. Evans, M. Owens, A. J. Rich, J. Trolinger, and Isham Cagle.

Conference was then organized by choosing Bro. A. G. Anderson, President; J. W. Hatch, Vice President; Dr. E. F. Watson, Secretary, and R. D. Jones, Assistant Secretary.

The following Delegates gave in their names from the following churches represented, viz:

APPLE'S CHAPEL, *Guilford Co.*—Henry Apple, L. W. Clapp, and John Crismon.

BETHLEHEM, *Alamance Co.*—Michael Tekel, Tobias Waynock, and L. L. Lambeth.

BROWN'S CHAPEL, *Moore Co.*—Nicholas Nall and William Brewer.

CONCORD, *Caswell Co.*—John Garrison.

CHRISTIAN UNION, *Randolph Co.*—Isaac Lawrence and Stephen Richardson.

DAMASCUS, *Orange Co.*—Matthew McCauley and M. D. Strowd.

FULLER'S, *Granville Co.*—Solomon Fuller and John Ware.

GOOD HOPE, *Granville Co.*—John Moore.

Elder B. N. Hopkins presented the following resolution :

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to recommend a suitable course of studies to be pursued by those wishing to engage in the Christian Ministry.

Discussed in the affirmative by B. N. Hopkins, S. Apple, A. Apple, J. McCulley, G. G. Walker, and J. W. Hatch ; and in the negative by J. W. Wellons, W. H. Boykin, A. G. Anderson, W. N. Bragg, and Solomon Fuller.

The vote was then taken upon said resolution, and it was lost.

On motion of R. D. Jones Conference adjourned, subject to the call of the President.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Conference was called to order by the President.

On motion of Elder G. G. Walker, the following were appointed delegates to the next Annual Meeting of the Eastern Virginia Conference, viz: Elders R. G. Tinnen, James W. Wellons, Solomon Apple, Thos. J. Fowler, G. G. Walker, Wm. N. Bragg, J. I. Hobby, A. Apple, and Bros. A. G. Anderson, J. W. Hatch, Dr. E. F. Watson, and Leonard Mabry.

The annual address was then delivered by Dr. E. F. Watson.

On motion of Elder R. G. Tinnen, that the next Annual Conference be held at Pope's Chapel, Granville Co., N. C., to commence on Thursday before the second Sabbath in October, 1858.

The following resolution was presented by R. D. Jones :

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference be tendered to Dr. E. F. Watson for the excellent opening address delivered by him, and a copy of the same be solicited for publication.

On Motion of Elder G. G. Walker, Bro. H. Boswell was received as an honorary member of this body from Liberty church, Caswell Co., N. C.

On motion of Elder A. Iseley, a committee of three was appointed to inquire into the statistical condition of the churches composing this Conference, for the purpose of ascertaining the number of delegates to elect to the next Southern Christian Convention. The following Brothers were appointed, viz : Elders A. Iseley, Josiah McCulley, and James W. Wellons.

On motion of Dr. E. F. Watson, Conference adjourned to 7 o'clock, to give way for a meeting of the Home Missionary Society.

7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Conference was called together, and the following Elders and Licentiates made their ministerial and parochial reports, viz :

REPORT OF B. N. HOPKINS.

Preached during the year forty-five times. Funeral sermons two. Married two. Received none. Baptized none. Temperance discourses. two.

REPORT OF J. I. HOBBY.

Preached fifty-seven times. Funerals seven. Members received sixteen. Married seven. Received \$42.25.

REPORT OF JOSEPH ALBRIGHT.

Preached thirty-six times. Held four quarterly meetings. Funeral sermons one. Assisted in the ordination of one deacon, and the administration of the Lord's Supper. Attended the meeting of two Sunday schools.

REPORT OF SOLOMON APPLE.

Has labored with three churches; preached fifty sermons; attended one Sabbath school at one of the churches; preached four funeral sermons.

WM. M. CRAVEN'S REPORT

Preached forty times, and offered fifty-five prayers in public.

REPORT OF WM. S. JORDAN.

Reports that he has labored as much as he could, owing to his health not being good. Preached twenty-seven times, and labored with two churches. Owing to his situation in life and ill health, has been deprived from laboring as much as he desired.

REPORT OF J. M'CULLEY, ITINERANT ON GRAHAM CIRCUIT.

Preaches at seventeen churches. Preached one hundred and five sermons. Received seven. Expulsions none. Deaths none. Married two.

WM. N. BRAGG'S REPORT ON TAR RIVER CIRCUIT.

Distance traveled thirty-one hundred miles. Sermons preached during the year one hundred and nineteen. Number of exhortations fifteen. Number converted one hundred and seven. Received to membership twenty-six. Baptized two. Preached six funeral sermons. Amount received \$258.82.

REPORT OF G. G. WALKER.

Preaches to four churches, and has labored at various other places. Traveled over two thousand miles. Preached sixty-five times. Baptized six. Married six. Amount received \$126.00.

REPORT OF JAMES W. WELLONS, ON DEEP RIVER CIRCUIT.

Traveled three thousand eight hundred and eighty-five miles. Preached two hundred sermons. Funerals twenty-three. Temperance discourses sixteen. Converted on the circuit one hundred and seventy-three. Received into the church one hundred and forty. Baptized seventy-nine. Married three. Sabbath schools seven. Received \$273.56.

REPORT OF THOMAS G. CRAVEN.

Reports, that owing to his peculiar circumstances, he had not preached as often as he desired, and kept no account of his labors. The Sabbaths not spent at preaching have been in a Sabbath school, being one of the conductors. He expects that his opportunity will be better for the next year, and expects to labor more than the past year.

REPORT OF THOMAS TRUITT.

Preached twenty-nine times. Attended seven sacramental meetings, or assisted in the same. Heard fifty-four sermons from other brethren. Traveled on foot to preach and hear preaching, four hundred miles. Received five members. Attended two Sunday schools. Married none. Funerals one. Lectures two. Baptized one. Received \$10.30.

REPORT OF A. S. NELSON.

Churches two. Preached fifty sermons. Received some, (number not given.) Baptized some, (number not given.) Attended all the sacramental and protracted meetings in reach.

REPORT OF ISHAM CAGLE, *Licentiate*.

Preached sixteen sermons. One funeral sermon. Exercised some in exhortation. Assisted in the superintendence of one Sunday school.

The remaining ministers present made verbal reports. Their reports showed that an unusual degree of prosperity had attended the ministry of the Word, and that many had been added to the churches during the present year.

Letters from the following churches were then read, viz: Pleasant Grove, Chatham Co.; Acorn Ridge; Zion Hill; Apple's Chapel, and Pleasant Hill.

The Committee on the Statistical Condition of the Churches reported that the number of members belonging to this Conference were the rise of thirty-six hundred, and that this Conference was entitled to eighteen members to the Southern Convention, nine elders and nine laymen.

On motion of Elder R. G. Tinnen, Conference proceeded to elect delegates to the next Southern Christian Convention; whereupon the following delegates were elected, viz: Elders Alfred Iseley re-

ceived forty-five votes; Thomas J. Fowler forty-one; Alfred Apple thirty-nine; G. G. Walker thirty-eight; Solomon Apple thirty-eight; W. N. Bragg thirty-seven; Josiah Mc'Culley thirty-six; James W. Wellons thirty-five; R. G. Tinnen thirty-two; scattering forty-one. The above named brethren were declared elected.

The election of nine laymen was next in order, and while under consideration Conference adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by Elder Wm. B. Wellons.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK, OCT. 24.

The Conference met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the President. Minutes of yesterday read and approved. The first business in order was the electing of nine laymen to the next Southern Christian Convention, which resulted as follows, viz: Alfred Moring received fifty-four votes; W. H. Read fifty; Dr. E. F. Watson forty-nine; J. W. Hatch forty-nine; Hugh B. Gurthrie forty-four; Harrison Harbor forty-two; James M. Smith forty-one; C. F. Faucette thirty-eight; M. C. Winston thirty-six; scattering seventy-three.

The following was presented by Elder Alfred Iseley, and unanimously adopted:

Whereas we have learned that Joseph Murray, of Alamance County, N. C., has recently proposed to solemnize the rites of matrimony and attend to the ordinances of the church, under a license received from this Conference, we feel that it is our duty to state that Joseph Murray is not a minister, or a member of the Christian church, having joined the Baptist church in 1853, (or about that time,) at which time his name was erased from this Conference, and he withdrew from the local church, of which he was a member; and we hereby declare that he has no connection with the Christian church, and no authority to officiate as a minister under any license received from this body.

On motion of S. Apple, Conference was ordered to give Elder A. Iseley a renewal of his credentials as a Christian minister, he having the misfortune to have his former license consumed by fire.

The Committee on the standing of the ministry made their report.

R E P O R T .

Your Committee on the character and standing of the ministry, beg leave to report, that upon investigation they find all the Elders in good standing generally. We find all of our Licentiates in good standing except two. We are pained to report Br. Joseph Trolinger

very remiss in duty, not exercising his gifts at all; and we would request Conference to take his case in consideration. We are also pained to report Bro. L. C. Madison for being abusive to his family, thereby destroying his usefulness as a minister. We find Br. Abner Apple in good standing, but a little remiss in duty as a licentiate. All of which is respectfully submitted.

ALFRED MORING, *Chairman.*

On motion, the report was received and adopted, except the part of the report that relates to Bro. Trolinger, that was ordered to be rescinded, as his case was then in the hands of the local church of which he is a member.

On motion of J. W. Hatch, a committee of three was appointed to investigate the report against Bro. Madison. The following was appointed, viz: Elders A. Iseley, A. Apple and J. McCulley.

Bro. Abner Apple gave an explanation for his negligence of not attending to his ministerial duties. On motion of B. N. Hopkins, Bro. Apple was excused on condition of exercising his gifts more hereafter.

The committee in the case of Bro. Madison made their report.

R E P O R T .

Your committee in the case of Bro. L. C. Madison, beg leave to report, that after patiently hearing the whole matter, we think that suitable confessions have been made, and a sufficient promise of a consistent and Christian life, by God's assisting grace, pledged.

Signed in behalf of the committee.

ALFRED ISELEY, *Chairman.*

On motion, the report was unanimously adopted.

The Committee on Education submitted the following report, which was read and adopted as a whole.

R E P O R T .

While your committee feel deeply impressed with the importance of the subject of education, they are at an entire loss to know in what light to present the subject to this body. It is with much regret that we know that so little attention is paid, and so small an estimate placed on the subject of education by the mass of mankind.

The committee regard an education as invaluable in every department of business life, but most important to *ministers* of the gospel, who are at once occupying the highest station of God's giving on earth, and most responsible among men, and whose labors are to tell more in time and eternity upon the *weal* or *woe* of man than any other class of beings. Men with one voice are loudly calling for educated, *legal, medical and mechanical men*, in short, for educated men in every department of business life.

And whilst the above, in the opinion of your committee, is strictly true, we regret to know that hitherto no efficient plan has been, and from recent transactions of this body there is too much reason to *fear* that there will not be soon, if ever, a plan devised for educating our *ministry*, and elevating them to that high position among ministers of sister churches, which their holy zeal and Bible principles entitle them to.

The age of *prophecy*, and time of qualifying men for ministerial duty miraculously, has passed away with the roll of years. Your committee hope Conference may devise some plan to relieve the Graham Institute from its present embarrassed condition.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

B. N. HOPKINS, *Chairman*.

On motion of A. Moring, Elder J. McCully was appointed to deliver the next annual address to Conference at its next annual session, and Elder Jas. W. Wellons his alternate.

On motion of Dr. E. F. Watson, Conference adjourned subject to the call of the President.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Conference again convened.

The committee on Sunday Schools made their report.

REPORT.

Your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report that we are glad to hear of a goodly number of Sabbath Schools being successfully conducted in the bounds of Conference. But we are pained to say, that many churches and neighborhoods are still destitute of the untold blessings of Sabbath Schools. We do therefore hope that all, (and especially every minister) will feel and act with that intense interest that the great importance demands. And whenever and at every place where it can properly be done, we will use our best endeavors to organize an efficient and well conducted Sabbath School.

Respectfully submitted,

S. G. EVANS, *Chairman*.

On motion the report was received and adopted.

On motion of S. Apple Conference adjourned for a meeting of the Home Missionary Society. Conference adjourned to 7 o'clock, P. M.

7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Conference met agreeably to adjournment. Called to order by the President.

The Committee appointed on Temperance made their report, and on motion it was unanimously adopted.

REPORT.

We, the Committee appointed to report on Temperance, beg leave to present to this body as our sincere and honest conviction, that the manufacture, sale and use of ardent spirits as a beverage is an evil of such magnitude, that our influence as lovers of morality and religion should be exercised against it. We regret that all do not see the subject in the same light that we do. We mourn over the fact, that many who are otherwise exemplary in their conduct continue the injurious practice of making, selling, buying and using intoxicating drinks. We would not sit in judgment upon the consciences of others, nor exclude from our fellowship all who differ with us on this subject; but we would advise all to examine the subject thoroughly, look at it in all its bearings, and, as they will soon appear in the presence of the Judge, to act according to the dictates of reason, the teachings of the Bible, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

This question must be approached as a moral one—a Bible one—and the inquiry should be, does the spirit of the teaching of the Bible justify the manufacture, sale and use of ardent spirits as a beverage?

In order that the Bible teachings on this subject may appear plain to all, we advise that all our ministers prepare and deliver one sermon on the subject, at all their regular preaching places; and that they in the spirit of love warn all to turn from the pernicious practice, and give their influence in forwarding the great and glorious temperance reform.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSIAH McCULLEY,	} Committee.
JAS. W. WELLONS,	
MATTHEW McCAULEY,	

The Committee on Itinerancy made their report.

REPORT.

Your committee on Itinerancy beg leave to report as follows:

TAR RIVER CIRCUIT.—Wm. N. Bragg, Itinerant, to preach at Pope's Chapel, Good Hope, Fuller's, Damascus, and Oak Level.

GRAHAM CIRCUIT.—Alfred Iseley, Itinerant, to preach at the following places, and amount pledged \$272.50; Mount Zion \$25; Union, Alamance co., \$25; Zion Hill, Liberty, \$10; Concord, \$20; Burk's School House, \$20; Park's Stand, \$40; Barnum's, \$2.50; Mount Bethel, \$30; Western's School House, Vest's, \$20; Fulp's, \$25; Bethlehem, \$25; Shallow Ford, Apple's Chapel, \$30.

HAW RIVER CIRCUIT.—J. W. Wellons, Itinerant, to preach at the following places—amount pledged, \$267: Hark's Chapel, \$90; Antioch, \$20; Zion, \$27; Shallow Well, \$50; Moore Union, \$20; Christian Chapel, \$40; Bethel, \$20; Bell's, Pleasant Spring, \$60; Jones' School House.

DAN RIVER CIRCUIT.—B. N. Hopkins, Itinerant, to preach at Union, Halifax co., Va., Reese's Chapel, Liberty Grove, Shilo and Sharon.

DEEP RIVER CIRCUIT.—R. G. Tinnen, Itinerant, to preach at Pleasant Hill, \$40; Park's Cross Roads, \$25; Pleasant Ridge, \$15; Shilo,

Randolph co., \$25; Pleasant Grove, \$25; Christian Union, \$20; Shady Grove, \$15; Brown's Chapel, 10; Acorn Ridge, \$5; Salem, \$20. Total, \$205.

WM. H. READ, *Chairman*.

The report was adopted, except Deep River Circuit.

The remaining churches are under pastoral labors, and not requiring an Itinerant.

The following resolution was offered by Elder S. Apple :

Whereas much of the prosperity of Christians, South, depends upon the success of the "*Christian Sun*," and believing that its circulation may be increased in the borders of this Conference, if proper effort be made, we most earnestly recommend to all our Ministers and Lay-brethren to renew their efforts in its behalf; and we heartily recommend it as an able exponent of the principles of the Christian Church, and sympathize with Elder Wellons in his efforts to sustain it.

On motion the above resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Committee on the condition of Graham Institute made their report :

REPORT.

Your Committee on the condition of Graham Institute beg leave to report that the Trustees of said Institute, at as early a day as possible, be requested to sell the same, and pay the outstanding debts against said Institute.

Submitted, A. ISELEY, *Chairman*.

On motion of R. D. Jones, the report was laid on the table.

On motion Brother D. T. Deanes was recommended to travel as an Itinerant on Graham Circuit with Elder A. Iseley, and Brother Solomon Fuller to travel with Elder W. N. Bragg on Tar River Circuit.

On motion of A. Iseley the following were appointed a Conference Committee for the ensuing year : P. R. Harden, John Fau-cette and Dr. E. F. Watson.

The Committee on the Ministry and Ordination reported :

REPORT.

The Committee report that after a prayerful, careful, and thorough examination, we are perfectly satisfied with the religious experience and call to the Ministry of Brother A. G. Anderson, recommended by the Church at Union, Alamance county, Brother D. T. Deanes, recommended by the Church at Mount Bethel, and Brother Solomon Fuller, recommended by the Church at Fuller's, and therefore recommend them as suitable persons to be received as Licentiates in the Conference, and license given them signed by the officers of the Conference, and their names enrolled as Licentiates.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. J. FOWLER, *Chairman*.

On motion of S. Apple the report was unanimously adopted.

On motion of B. N. Hopkins the Conference Committee be instructed to supply an Itinerant on Deep River Circuit.

On motion of S. Apple that the meeting of next Conference to commence on Wednesday instead of Thursday was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Dr. E. F. Watson the Secretary was instructed to have printed 750 copies of the Minutes of this Conference for distribution among the churches; and that the contributions sent up from the various churches to defray the expense of printing the same be paid over to the Treasurer of this Conference, and that the expense of printing them be paid out of the Conference fund. Adopted.

On motion of G. G. Walker, Elders J. McCully and B. N. Hopkins were appointed to correspond with Elder J. M. Minnis, of Tennessee, and that they send him twenty-five copies of the Minutes of this Conference.

Elder R. G. Tinnen presented a letter from the church organized early last Spring, at Jones' School House, Wake co., N. C., with twenty members. The petition was accepted, and the church unanimously received in Conference.

The following resolution was presented by S. Apple, and on motion it was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference be and are hereby tendered to the members and friends in the vicinity of Bethlehem, for the very kind and hospitable manner in which they have received and entertained the members of this Conference during its present session.

On motion of Dr. Watson, the report of the Committee on the Graham Institute was taken up, when the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Delegates to the Eastern Virginia Conference be instructed to confer with that body as to the best plan of relieving the Institute from its present embarrassed condition.

The Conference then adjourned to meet at Pope's Chapel, Granville county, on Wednesday before the second Sabbath in October, 1858. Singing and prayer by Elder Thos. J. Fowler.

A. G. ANDERSON, *President*,

JNO. W. HATCH, *Vice Pres't*.

E. F. WATSON, *Secretary*,

R. D. JONES, *Assis't Sec'y*.

HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THE Home Missionary Society of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference met at Bethlehem, Alamance county, October 24th, 1857.

The meeting was called to order. Elder B. N. Hopkins, President. Prayer was offered by Elder Solomon Apple; after which the minutes of the last session were read.

The annual election of officers was then announced as the first business in order. A. G. Anderson was elected President; Dr. E. F. Watson, Vice President; James A. Turrentine, Secretary, and Elder Josiah McCully, Treasurer.

George G. Walker, Alfred Iseley, John Faucette, P. R. Harden, and E. F. Watson, were elected the Executive Committee. Thos. J. Fowler, A. Moring, J. I. Hobby, H. B. Hayes, B. N. Hopkins, M. Staley, B. Stroud, A. Apple, R. D. Jones, J. W. Hatch, R. G. Tinnen, and P. M. Tuck, were chosen Directors.

Five dollars was appropriated to pay for the printing of the minutes.

The Secretary and Treasurer were directed to procure suitable books to record the names of the members of the Society in, together with the proceedings of each meeting.

On motion, the ministers connected with the Society were directed to take up a collection at each of their charges for the benefit of this Society, and report the amount collected to the President of the same.

The Treasurer made his annual report.

REPORT.

Amount received from the former Treasurer,	-	-	-	\$306 55
" " " John Castlebury,	-	-	-	5 00
" " " Lucinda Anderson,	-	-	-	5 00
" " " James W. Wellons,	-	-	-	5 00
" " " Elias Macon,	-	-	-	5 00
" " " H. B. Farmer,	-	-	-	5 00
" " " Nasa Boon,	-	-	-	5 00
" " " Susan B. Simpson,	-	-	-	1 00
" " " A. Iseley,	-	-	-	29 50
" " " Union Church,	-	-	-	8 85

Amount in hand, - - - - - \$369 90

JOSIAH MCCULLY, *Treasurer.*

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be required to employ a Missionary to preach at some of the destitute churches, and that Wilmington be recommended to their consideration.

The following preamble and resolution was then adopted :—

WHEREAS, In the Providence of God our beloved brethren, Bingham Apple and Robert M. Foust, two of the members of this Society, have recently been taken from us by death—therefore,

Resolved, That whilst we bow with humble reverence to the will of God, the ruler of all, we most sincerely mourn their death, and pray that God may sanctify the painful dispensation of his Providence to the good of the living.

The Society then adjourned, to meet at Pope's Chapel sometime during the session of the next Conference.

A. G. ANDERSON, *President*.

JAS. A. TURRENTINE, *Secretary*.



THE
CHRISTIAN SUN.

The 15th volume of the "CHRISTIAN SUN" will commence in April, 1858. It is published by the Southern Christian Association, at Suffolk, Va., and is devoted to Religion, Morality, Temperance, Literature, News, and the support of the principles of the Christian Church, South. It is issued every Friday, at the low price of \$1.50 per annum, *in advance*.

W. B. WELLONS, *Editor*.

All communications should be directed to W. B. Wellons, Suffolk, Va.